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LETTER DATED 4 AUGUST 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TAJIKISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon gaining its independence, the Republic of Tajikistan embarked on the establishment of its legal system and the creation of the structures and democratic institutions essential to a sovereign State. In May 1992, however, the Tajik opposition, by the use of force, seized power and plunged Tajikistan into civil war. After suffering defeat, the opposition crossed over into the territory of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

At its sixteenth session, the Supreme Council of the Republic of Tajikistan restored the rule of law in the country. The session elected the new members of the Presidium of the Supreme Council and approved the members of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Tajikistan, who are making every effort to restore peace and stability in the Republic and to create normal conditions for the peaceful life and constructive work of its citizens.

The people and Government of Tajikistan are profoundly concerned by the powerful and well-coordinated acts of armed aggression perpetrated by certain groups of Afghan mujahidin and the Tajik armed opposition from the territory of the Islamic State of Afghanistan in the territory of the independent and sovereign State of Tajikistan and against Russian frontier guards who, at the request of the leaders of our country, are protecting its frontier with the Islamic State of Afghanistan. This joint aggression is designed to undermine stability both in Tajikistan and throughout the Central Asian region.

These revanchist acts of extremism and terrorism bear witness to the prior existence of a carefully worked out subversive plan, directed against the Tajik people. The situation on the Tajik-Afghan frontier remains highly volatile and is the cause of serious concern.

I am compelled by these circumstances to address this letter to you and to draw your attention to the appeal by the Coordinating Council of National Associations and Communities of the Republic of Tajikistan of 30 July 1993 to the Heads of State of the Members of the United Nations, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the international community and the people of Afghanistan, condemning the extremist forces in Afghanistan and the Tajik revanchists.

The appeal refers, inter alia, to the establishment in certain places in Afghanistan of training centres for guerrillas. With the support of certain Afghan field commanders, these guerrillas are carrying out armed attacks on Russian frontier guards, who are performing their duty in accordance with the Treaty on Collective Security of the member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States. What is most troubling is that the Tajik armed opposition and the groups of Afghan mujahidin, together with their accomplices, are attempting to set the peoples of Tajikistan, the Russian Federation and Afghanistan against each other and to provoke them into an armed conflict, thus igniting large-scale inter-ethnic and inter-State hostilities. The document entreats the Afghan people, who have themselves experienced the horrors of many years of war, not to believe the leaders of the Tajik armed opposition, who were overthrown by the people of Tajikistan.

Today marks the conclusion of the operation to rout the anti-government band of Tajik guerrillas and Afghan mujahidin who, at the end of June 1993, infiltrated the area near the eleventh frontier post of the Moskovsky frontier guard detachment. The build-up of large numbers of Tajik armed opposition forces and Afghan mujahidin is, however, continuing in the territory of Afghanistan along the frontier with Tajikistan. In these circumstances, the Government of Tajikistan supports the statement by the Russian Government and considers that, given the present developments, the only alternative is decisive action to put an end to the armed aggression in the area of the Tajik-Afghan frontier, in full conformity with the right of individual and collective self-defence, provided for under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

At the same time, the Government of Tajikistan is making active endeavours to normalize the situation on the Tajik-Afghan frontier through political negotiation and is prepared to enter into peaceful dialogue with the Afghan side at any level, including direct meetings and talks between the Heads of State of Tajikistan and Afghanistan. On 1 August 1993, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan, Mr. Rashid Alimov, twice approached his Afghan counterpart, Mr. Hedayat Amin Arsala, with the proposal that they should meet urgently to discuss the situation on the frontier between Tajikistan and Afghanistan and to elaborate settlement measures.

My Government is taking diplomatic steps to set in motion, at the earliest possible date, multilateral talks on a settlement of the situation between our two neighbouring countries, Tajikistan and Afghanistan, in the hope of satisfying the aspiration for peace felt so strongly by the Tajik and Afghan peoples.

The Government and the people of Tajikistan greatly appreciate the steps which you have taken to promote the establishment of peace and stability in our region and express the hope that you personally and your representatives will continue to render assistance to all the parties to the conflict in the search for a political settlement to the situation on the Tajik-Afghan frontier, with all its ramifications.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Lakim K. KAYUMOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative